Appl. No: 09/942,349 Arridt. dated December 19, 2003 Reply to Office action of November 14, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 15 are pending. Claims 14 and 16-21 are now cancelled.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's statement that Claims 1-7 and 15 are allowable and in view of this, Applicants herewith cancel Claims 14 and 16-21.

It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is presented in good faith and that no new subject matter has been added.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all objections and rejections are overcome. Thus, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 19, 2003

Nanette S. Thomas Registration No. 33, 310

Becton Dickinson and Company 1 Becton Drive Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417

Tel: 201-847-7049

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: MAIL STOP AF, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

ON: DECEMBER 19, 2003

BY: SUSAN R. WAGNER

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